Resource Guide for Special Needs

Local, State and National Resources

last revision September 2012

www.aogh.org

713-957-1600

713-957-1699 (FAX)
This revision of the Resource Guide for Special Needs would never have occurred without the extensive volunteer service hours of a select group of very special women.

All of the staff of The Arc: Greater Houston Chapter want to convey their gratitude to these special volunteers:

Mattie Mills
Dorothy Stephenson
Sophie Haase

What The Arc Stands for:

The Arc: Greater Houston Chapter is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization formed in 1984. We exist to help insure that all children and adults with intellectual and all other related developmental disabilities are valued and included, not excluded because they are different.

Our goal is to provide the supports that will allow all children with intellectual and developmental disabilities to have the same experiences that all children should have as they grow up.

The Arc serves as the voice of all those who cannot speak for themselves, but who just want to live in and be part of their own community.

The Arc works hard to respond to the real-life needs of every child and every family who experiences an intellectual and any other related disabilities.

The Arc works for the right of every child and adult with special needs to receive the behavioral supports necessary to be fully included in the community.

This guide is for informational purposes only. None of the listing contained herein should be considered as recommendations on the part of The Arc: Greater Houston Chapter.
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## Local Resources for the Greater Houston Area

### Disability Information and Support Groups  

*(1st by all disability applicable services, 2nd by type of disability)*

#### All Disabilities/All Special Needs Services & Inclusive Parent Support Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Service Details</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The Arc: Greater Houston – Central and service locations | General referral and information services. Special education assistance (for families of children with all types of disabilities) including individual assistance and trainings for parents and professionals. Supports Familias Hispanas support group. Social, leisure and respite programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Also Self- Advocates support group for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. | 713-957-1600  
http://www.aogh.org/ |
| Early Childhood Intervention | Local area early childhood (ages 0 - 3) intervention services run by the Texas state agency DARS (Department of Assistive and rehabilitative services). Multiple locations. | (see website)  
http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/searchalpha.asp?letter=h |
| Easter Seals Disability Services - Central | They provide some respite services and activities for children with all types of disabilities. | 713-838-9058  
http://www.eastersealshouston.org |
| Exceptional Parents of Little Angels - Pasadena | Parent run support group that meets monthly at the Verne Cox Center. Meets September through May. | 281-464-3799 |
| Familias Hispanas | Parent run, Spanish speaking, parent support group for parents of children with all types of disabilities. Supported by The Arc: Greater Houston Chapter. Meets at least 1 time per month | 713-957-1600  
http://www.aogh.org/Espanol.html |
| Families Can Program – Parent Education Project - Central | For families of children with special health care needs. Parent caseworkers work one-on-one with families to find services for their children and to enhance the family's quality of life. They also offer a Relatives as Parents Program that provides information and case management. | 713-743-5435  
http://www.las.uh.edu/pep/families-can.aspx |
| Family to Family Network – Northwest and other greater Houston areas | Parent-led information, referral, education, and support groups for families with children who have disabilities. | 713-466-6304  
http://www.familytofamilynetwork.org/ |
| Friends and Families of Asians with Special Needs – Central/Southwest | A group for Asian families with special needs that provides seminars, information sharing, structured activities and family events. | 281-840-8435  
http://www.ffasn.org/ |
| Houston Commission on Disabilities - Central | 12 members appointed by the mayor of Houston. They meet monthly every second Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m. At the Metropolitan Multiservice Center located at 1475 W Gray Street and the public is allowed to attend. For those who want to participate in the future direction of disability services in Houston this meeting is highly recommended. | 713-803-1075  
http://www.houstontx.gov/disabilities/commission.html |
| Jewish Community Center of Houston – Southwest Houston | Various cultural and social programs for special needs children, “Nite Owls” for special needs adults, and “Kesher & The Bureau of Jewish Education “for parents and professionals involved in special education. | 713-729-3200  
http://www.jcchouston.org/programs/special-needs-programs |
| March of Dimes - Central | Organization whose mission is to prevent birth defects, including preventable disabilities. | 713-623-2020  
http://www.marchofdimes.com/texas |
| Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) - Central | Regulates city services and advocates for the rights and needs of persons with disabilities in Houston | 713-284-1990  
http://www.houstontx.gov/disabilities/index.html |
| United Cerebral Palsy – Central (Now Easter Seals Disability Services) | Provides respite services and activities for children with all types of disabilities. | 713-838-9050  
http://www.eastersealshouston.org/ |
## Disability Information and Support Groups by Specific Types of Disabilities

### Attention Deficit Disorder/ADHD

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<th>Service Provider</th>
<th>Address/Contact Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Attention Deficit Disorders Association – Southern Region, Multiple Support Group Sites</td>
<td>281-897-0982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information and support for people affected by ADD/ADHD. See website for current support group listings</td>
<td><a href="http://www.adda-ar.org">http://www.adda-ar.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of Attentional Difficulties at Texas Children’s Hospital – Medical Center</td>
<td>832-822-3700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation, intervention and treatment planning.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.texaschildrens.org/Locate/Departments-and-Services/Psychology/Services/">http://www.texaschildrens.org/Locate/Departments-and-Services/Psychology/Services/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Autism/Asperger Syndrome/Pervasive Developmental Disorder

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<th>Service Provider</th>
<th>Address/Contact Info</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapists (Private)</td>
<td>(website only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families for Early Autism Treatment (see below listing) maintains a list of private ABA Therapists in Houston</td>
<td><a href="http://www.feathouston.org/resources/private-providers-public-services/in-home-providers/">http://www.feathouston.org/resources/private-providers-public-services/in-home-providers/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASPIE: Asperger Syndrome Parent-Professional Information Exchange - Sugarland</td>
<td>281-404-9976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support groups for families of individuals with Asperger syndrome and for persons with Asperger syndrome. Two support groups available: one for parents &amp; professionals, and one for adults with autism. Both meetings held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aspieinfo.com">http://www.aspieinfo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Autism Center at the Children’s Learning Institute.</td>
<td>713-500-3600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment and clinical resources for children with autism spectrum disorders</td>
<td><a href="http://www.childrenslearninginstitute.org/duncan-programs/Autism-Center/">http://www.childrenslearninginstitute.org/duncan-programs/Autism-Center/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autism Society – Greater Houston Chapter – Medical Center</td>
<td>713-513-7575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly parent support group meeting as well as a newsletter</td>
<td><a href="http://www.houstonchapterasa.org/">http://www.houstonchapterasa.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texana Behavior Improvement Center – Fort Bend/Sugarland</td>
<td>281 329-1328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center For Autism and Developmental Disabilities</td>
<td>281-283-3437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training for professionals, children's assessment and treatment services for severe problem behaviors, counseling for couples of children with autism spectrum disorders</td>
<td><a href="http://hsh.uhcl.edu/CADD">http://hsh.uhcl.edu/CADD</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.L.A.S.S. Clinic</td>
<td>713-486-2587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Coffee House – A service of MHMRA - Southwest</td>
<td>713-970-8217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For individuals with Asperger/Autism Disorder and limited cognitive delays. Social skills training, transitional support, prevocational training, individualized treatment plans</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mhmraharris.org/MRServices.asp">http://www.mhmraharris.org/MRServices.asp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connections Center - Bellaire</td>
<td>713-838-1362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information, training, family based programs and curriculum for those who have an autism spectrum disorder</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rdiconnect.com">http://www.rdiconnect.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families for Effective Autism Treatment(FEAT) – Central and other Houston area locations</td>
<td>281-361-3328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information about autism, local resources, and support groups</td>
<td><a href="http://www.feathouston.org">http://www.feathouston.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus Initiative – Woodlands, West Houston Stafford</td>
<td>281-240-0663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills training, advocacy and family consultation for autism spectrum concerns</td>
<td><a href="http://www.asdfocus.com">http://www.asdfocus.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston Autism Disability Network – Woodlands/Conroe</td>
<td>832-341-3394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information and parent support group</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hadn.org/">http://www.hadn.org/</a></td>
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<th><strong>MHMRA (Mental Health mental Retardation Authority) – Central/Southwest</strong></th>
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<td>Services include those for persons with intellectual disabilities, autism, and other developmental disorders, as well as services to persons with severe mental illness. This agency oversees the HCS Medicaid waiver program. Services for qualified individuals with autism spectrum disorders includes ABA programs, SKIP program, Coffee House, day habilitation, and employment training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.mhmraharris.org/">http://www.mhmraharris.org/</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th><strong>The Shape of Behavior – Various locations</strong></th>
<th>832-358-2655</th>
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<tr>
<td>Center-based program providing 30 hours per week of one-on-one ABA therapy to children ages 18-months and up. Six locations</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.shapeofbehavior.com">http://www.shapeofbehavior.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<th><strong>Texas Autism Advocacy – Web presence only</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Source of information and resources for autism compiled by a local Houston area parent</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/TexasAutismAdvocacy">http://www.facebook.com/TexasAutismAdvocacy</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/Texas-Autism-Advocacy/">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/Texas-Autism-Advocacy/</a></td>
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### Blind/ Vision Impaired

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<th><strong>Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Technology – Houston Office</strong></th>
<th>713-802-3100</th>
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<tr>
<td>Range of services for vision impairments</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Houston Council of the Blind</strong></th>
<th>713-520-9237</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Nonprofit, membership based, information, support and education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.aactb-houston.org">http://www.aactb-houston.org</a></td>
<td></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>The Lighthouse of Houston</strong></th>
<th>713-527-9561</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-profit dedicated to assisting blind and visually impaired people to live independently. The Lighthouse of Houston offers a variety of education, rehabilitation and community programs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.houstonlighthouse.org/">http://www.houstonlighthouse.org/</a></td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sight into Sound</strong></th>
<th>713-622-2767</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-profit organization with a mission to “Turn Sight into Sound” by enriching the lives of people with visual, physical, and learning disabilities.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.tapingfortheblind.org/">http://www.tapingfortheblind.org/</a></td>
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### Cerebral Palsy

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<th><strong>Easter Seals Disability Services (formerly UCP Houston) – Various Locations</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Provides services for children and adults with disabilities, including therapeutic programs, social and leisure activities, and caregiver respite.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.eastersealshouston.org">http://www.eastersealshouston.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Deaf/ Hearing Impairment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Center for Hearing and Speech</strong></th>
<th>713-523-3633</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinic, school, classes, family support services, including a parent support group for families and children with hearing impairments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.centerhearingandspeech.org/">http://www.centerhearingandspeech.org/</a></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Deaf Houston Post</strong></th>
<th>(website only)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A newspaper for those with hearing impairments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.deafhoustonpost.com/">http://www.deafhoustonpost.com/</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Deaf Network of Texas</strong></th>
<th>(website only)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Web network of links, blogs and information regarding deaf services</td>
<td></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Houston Association for Communication Disorders</strong></th>
<th>713-623-8424</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization for speech and hearing disorders. Monthly support groups, conferences and outreach.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.hacd.org/">http://www.hacd.org/</a></td>
<td></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SignShares</strong></th>
<th>713-869-4373</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Translation, interpretation, training services to help people effectively communicate during activities and daily living</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://signshares.com/">http://signshares.com/</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Local

### Down Syndrome

**Down Syndrome Association of Houston – Various Locations**
Information, parent support groups, respite and other services for people affected by Down Syndrome
[www.dsha.org](http://www.dsha.org)

**Down Syndrome Clinic of Houston**
Evaluation, referral, tracking and treatment clinic for children with Down Syndrome. Part of Texas Children's Hospital. Open Monday and Tuesday mornings.

### Epilepsy

**The Baylor Comprehensive Epilepsy and Sleep Disorder Center**
Comprehensive evaluation for individuals with epilepsy.
[http://www.bcm.edu/neurology/epilepsy/index.cfm?PMID=13966](http://www.bcm.edu/neurology/epilepsy/index.cfm?PMID=13966)

**Epilepsy Foundation of Texas**
Support groups, information and referral, public awareness presentations, recreation programs
[www.eltx.org](http://www.eltx.org)

**Texas Comprehensive Epilepsy Center**
Comprehensive care for people with epilepsy and other seizure disorders
[www.uth.tmc.edu/schools/med/neurology/specialty/](http://www.uth.tmc.edu/schools/med/neurology/specialty/)

### Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

**The Arc: Greater Houston Chapter**
FASD brochures, training, information and referral, educational outreach provided.

**The Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston**
Classes, information and referral, prevention, case management and support groups. They also have the K.I.N.D.E.R. Rx Clinic for children who have been exposed to drugs (281-200-9123).
[www.council-houston.org](http://www.council-houston.org/)

**Houston Area Partnership for FASD**
Volunteer Partnership of organizations supporting FASD services. Facilitates parent support group

**March of Dimes - Central**
Organization whose mission is to prevent birth defects, including preventable disabilities such as FASDs.
[www.marchofdimes.com/texas](http://www.marchofdimes.com/texas)

**Intellectual Disabilities Needs Council of Harris County**
Free, downloadable brochure addressing F.A.S.D.s. A consortium of local agencies and organizations dedicated to promoting the supports and services necessary for improving the lives of those with FASDs, intellectual disabilities and related cognitive, developmental disabilities.

### Intellectual Disability

**The Arc: Greater Houston Chapter**
Information and referral. Social, leisure and respite programs for persons with developmental disabilities. Special education assistance for families of children with all types of disabilities (free). Parent support groups. Families Hispanics Spanish speaking parent support group. Also Self-Advocates support group for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
[www.aogh.org](http://www.aogh.org)

**Texana Behavior Improvement Center (formerly BTTC) – Southwest/Fort Bend and other locations**
Therapeutic interventions for people with PDD/Autism, and ID using Applied Behavior Analysis techniques.

**Down Syndrome Association of Houston – Various Locations**
Information and support for people affected by Down Syndrome.
[www.dsha.org](http://www.dsha.org)
### Local

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dual Diagnosis Services – MHMRA</strong></td>
<td>713-970-7070</td>
<td>Must have a developmental disability such as an autism spectrum disorder or an intellectual disability and a co-occurring mental health diagnosis. Assessment, treatment, day programs, medication monitoring (ages 18+). <a href="http://www.mhmraharris.org/IDD/ddualdxsvc.htm">http://www.mhmraharris.org/IDD/ddualdxsvc.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grupo de Apoyo – East Houston</strong></td>
<td>713-921-3036</td>
<td>Support group for families of those with intellectual disabilities and/or a dual diagnosis. Families with children having other disabilities are welcome to attend. Spanish speaking only group. The contact person is Faustino Lopez.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County (MHMRA) – Various Locations</strong></td>
<td>713-970-7070</td>
<td>Service to persons with intellectual disabilities, autism, and other developmental disorders, and services to persons with severe mental illness. This agency oversees several waiver programs. <a href="http://www.mhmraharris.org">www.mhmraharris.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Needs Council of Harris County (formerly the Mental Retardation Needs Council)</strong></td>
<td>713-680-8195</td>
<td>A consortium of local agencies and organizations dedicated to promoting the supports and services necessary for improving the lives of those with intellectual and related, cognitive developmental disabilities. <a href="http://www.iddnc.org">www.iddnc.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Language/ Speech Impairment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Houston Association for Communication Disorders</td>
<td>713-623-8424</td>
<td>Organization for speech and hearing disorders, monthly support groups, conferences and outreach. <a href="http://www.hacd.org/">http://www.hacd.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Parish School – West Houston</strong></td>
<td>713-467-4696</td>
<td>Day school for children with communication and learning difficulties, who have average to above average learning potential, ages 18 months through fifth grade. <a href="http://www.parishschool.org">www.parishschool.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Learning Disabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Texas Reading Institute/ Family Literacy – West Houston</strong></td>
<td>713-784-7373</td>
<td>Extensive reading programs for students with all types of reading difficulties. Comprehensive assessments available for reading disorders. <a href="http://www.familyliteracy.net/">www.familyliteracy.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Neuhaus Education Center - Central</strong></td>
<td>713-664-7676</td>
<td>Provides parent information, some trainings and links to trained reading tutors. In depth training and certification for special education professionals in reading intervention. <a href="http://www.neuhaus.org">www.neuhaus.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Mental Illness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Houston – Multiple Locations</td>
<td>713-600-1131</td>
<td>Information, referral, and support groups for persons with mood disorders. <a href="http://www.dbshouston.org">www.dbshouston.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Gathering Place – Multiple Locations</strong></td>
<td>713-729-3799</td>
<td><em>Free.</em> Provides a supportive environment for adults with mental illness, to practice social skills, find support, develop friendships. <a href="http://gplace.org/">http://gplace.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Harris County Psychiatric Center</strong></td>
<td>713-741-5000</td>
<td>Various inpatient and outpatient, mental health services as well as a useful links page on the website <a href="http://hcpc.uth.tmc.edu/">http://hcpc.uth.tmc.edu/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Menninger Clinic (at Baylor College of Medicine) – Medical Center</strong></td>
<td>713-275-5140</td>
<td>Comprehensive treatment for adults and adolescents with complex mental illness (co-occurring conditions), specializing in anxiety and eating disorders. <a href="http://www.menningerclinic.com">www.menningerclinic.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Local

**Mental Health Association - Southwest**  
Educational training concerning mental health issues; legislative advocacy. Their resource guide contains many residential placement options, hospitals, and psychiatrists.  
[www.mhahouston.org](http://www.mhahouston.org)

**Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County (MHMRA) – Various Locations**  
Provides service to persons with intellectual disabilities, autism, and other developmental disorders, and services to persons with severe mental illness. This agency oversees several waiver programs for children with disabilities.  
[www.mhmraharris.org](http://www.mhmraharris.org)

**National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) – Various Locations**  
Information and referral, support groups, multi-week courses including Visions for Tomorrow  
[www.namimetrohouston.org](http://www.namimetrohouston.org)

**Visions for Tomorrow – Various Locations**  
This family-to-family class provides a great deal of useful information about specific disorders, advocacy, coping, rehabilitation as well as other concerns for caregivers of children with brain disorders(disorders include mental health as well as cognitive/learning impairments). A program of National Alliance on Mental Illness

#### Muscular Dystrophy

**Muscular Dystrophy Association**  
Support groups in the greater Houston area for individuals and their families affected by any of the 40 neuromuscular diseases.  
[http://mda.org/office/houston-metro](http://mda.org/office/houston-metro) (Also on Facebook and Twitter)

#### Tourette Syndrome

**Tourette Syndrome Association of Texas – Multiple Locations**  
Information, referral, and support for families affected by Tourette Syndrome.  
[www.tourettetexas.org](http://www.tourettetexas.org)

### Child Care

**Child Care Licensing (DFPS) – Austin (Statewide)**  
Online search tool for childcare providers by county or city, age of child, type of care requested, and other variables. Search can be limited to “special needs” only. Also provides information about childcare licensing standards and procedures in Texas.  
[www.txchildcaresearch.org](http://www.txchildcaresearch.org)

**Collaboratives for Children – West Houston**  
Parent and community education regarding child care issues. On-line or telephone referral for child care services to meet specific family needs. Services available in Spanish.  
[http://www.collabforchildren.org](http://www.collabforchildren.org)

### Education

#### Private School Options

**The Arbor School – West Houston**  
Intensive intervention, ages birth through 12. Accepts children with developmental delays, or other medical conditions that place them at risk of developing developmental delay.  
[www.arbor.org](http://www.arbor.org)

**Avondale House – Southwest Houston**  
Day school education, day habilitation programs and residential care for persons with autism and other pervasive developmental disorders.  

**The Briarwood School – West Houston**  
Nonprofit independent school providing education for children with learning disabilities and developmental delays. Grades K-12. Also has summer learning program.  
[www.briarwoodschool.org](http://www.briarwoodschool.org)

**The Caroline School**  
For children with significant developmental delays (cognitive and physical). Easter Seals (formerly UCP) service  
[http://www.eastersealshouston.org/Children/the-caroline-school-a-day-program.html](http://www.eastersealshouston.org/Children/the-caroline-school-a-day-program.html)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Website/Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Harris School</td>
<td>Preschool thru grade 8, for children who have average to above average intelligence and have emotional, attentional, behavioral disabilities such as ADHD and Asperger Syndrome</td>
<td>713-526-2046</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://theharrisschool.com/">http://theharrisschool.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope Village - Friendswood</td>
<td>Residential facility for students with intellectual disabilities, ages 6 through adult. Also day and summer programs for children with intellectual disabilities. Sheltered workshop available.</td>
<td>281-482-7926</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.hope-village.com">www.hope-village.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston Learning Academy – Multiple Locations</td>
<td>Day school for children with learning disabilities, emotional disturbance, or other disabilities. Ages 14 to 19.</td>
<td>281-537-6433</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.hlahighschools.com">www.hlahighschools.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston Outdoor Learning Academy (HOLA) - Heights</td>
<td>Accredited school offering individualized curricula with a focus on activity-based, outdoor learning. Grades 6-12. Accepts children with or without disabilities.</td>
<td>713-224-4652</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.holainfo.com">www.holainfo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston Area Independent Schools</td>
<td>An online guide to private schools, after school activities, specialists, camps, and child-care in the greater Houston area. Sponsored by the Greater Houston Partnership.</td>
<td>(website only)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Joy School</td>
<td>Summer school and tutoring for children with learning differences.</td>
<td>713-523-0660</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.thejoysschool.org">www.thejoysschool.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New School in the Heights - Central</td>
<td>For students with ADHD, OCD, Tourettes., Asperger Disorder and other socio-emotional learning disabilities. School program and social skills programs</td>
<td>713-802-1256</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.newschooltheheights.org/index.cfm">http://www.newschooltheheights.org/index.cfm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Parish School – West Houston/Spring Branch</td>
<td>Day school for children with communication and learning difficulties, who have average to above average learning potential, ages 18 months through fifth grade.</td>
<td>713-467-4696</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.parishschool.org">www.parishschool.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providence Treatment Center – Missouri City</td>
<td>Day school and treatment center for children, youths, and young adults with autism, bipolar disorder, major depression, mental retardation, developmental disabilities, and multiple impairments. TEA approved non-public school.</td>
<td>281-208-1117</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.providencetreatmentcenter.com">www.providencetreatmentcenter.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Rise School – Medical Center Area</td>
<td>Day school providing early childhood education services to children with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities and to children without disabilities. Ages 6 months to 6 years.</td>
<td>713-532-7473</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.riseschool.org/houston">www.riseschool.org/houston</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Shape of Behavior</td>
<td>Provides individual and data based treatment to children with special needs related to autism, Asperger’s disorder, Down Syndrome, learning disabilities, ADHD, intellectual disabilities, abuse, emotional problems and any other children with special needs. Six locations throughout Houston and outer suburbs.</td>
<td>832-358-2655</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.shapeofbehavior.com">www.shapeofbehavior.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Local

**The Westview School – West Houston**
Day school for children with PDD/autism and other communication interactional disorders, using a multisensory curriculum emphasizing each child’s strengths. Age 2 through middle school.

- [www.westviewschool.org](http://www.westviewschool.org)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Advocacy and Law: Free Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disability Rights Texas: East Region</strong> (formerly Advocacy, Inc.) – Multiple Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides direct advocacy services including special education for individuals with disabilities. However, they only take cases that fall within their chosen focus areas for a given year. The web site has great, downloadable publications on a variety of special education concerns. Services available in Spanish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.disabilityrightstx.org">www.disabilityrightstx.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **The Arc: The Right to Learn Program/Central/ Northwest Houston** |
| Provides direct special education consultation, assistance, and training for parents of children involved in the special education process. Trainings for professionals also offered. Houston chapter. |
| [www.aogh.org](http://www.aogh.org) |

| **Family to Family Network** |
| Parent run organization that can provide phone assistance regarding some special education concerns. |
| [http://www.familyofamilynetwork.org](http://www.familyofamilynetwork.org) |

| **Lighthouse Learning & Resource** |
| Advocacy services, direct Social and leisure programs, tutoring |
| [www.lhlearningresource.com](http://www.lhlearningresource.com) |

| **TEAM Project** |
| Parent staffed organization. Special Education phone assistance. Trainings. |

### Private Special Education Attorneys

- **C. Michael Black**
  - 713-522-5999

- **Martin Cirkiel**
  - 512-244-6658

- **Ernie Hill**
  - carlos99@yahoo.com
  - 713-686-6600

- **Christopher L. Jonas**
  - 361-937-1801

- **Dorene Jackson Philpot**
  - 281-989-2010

### Private Special Education Advocates (Not Attorneys)

- **Louis H. Geigerman, Barbara Kluchin and Sidney Wohlman, National ARD/IEP Advocates**
  - [http://www.narda.org](http://www.narda.org)
  - 281-265-1506

- **Special Education Advocate - Jimmy Kilpatrick**
  - [http://www.ldadvocates.com](http://www.ldadvocates.com)
  - 832-814-7463

### Higher Education Resources

- **Houston Community College Disability Support Services – Spring Branch**
  - Coordinates accommodations for students with disabilities at Houston Community College.
  - 713-718-5422

- **LoneStar College – North Harris, Montgomery Country and others**
  - Information on accommodations and other services for students with disabilities.
  - [http://www.lonestar.edu/disability-services.htm](http://www.lonestar.edu/disability-services.htm)
  - 281-290-2708

- **Prairie View A&M, Office of Disability Services – Prairie View**
  - Provides assistance with necessary accommodations for students with disabilities attending Prairie View A&M.
  - [http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/4016.asp](http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/4016.asp)
  - 936-261-3585
### Local

**Rice Disability Support Services – Rice University**
Provides and facilitates support services and accommodations for all individuals with disabilities on the Rice University campus, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors.
http://dss.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=42

**San Jacinto College North Disability Support - San Jacinto College North (East Houston)**
Vocational opportunities and support for students with disabilities.
http://www.sanjac.edu/current-students/student-support/disability-assistance

**University of Houston Center for Students with Disabilities - Central**
Provides numerous academic support services to students with any type of learning disability, health impairment, physical limitation or psychiatric disorder at the University of Houston.
http://www.uh.edu/csd

**VAST Program (Vocational Advancement & Social Skills Training) – Houston Community College**
Educational opportunities for individuals who have learning, developmental, and/or physical disabilities. Courses are offered in the following areas: Academic, Personal/Social Development, Enrichment and Computers.
http://vast.hccs.edu/

### Other Education Resources

**Discover Technology**
Computer information and linked laboratories for persons with mental, physical, or other disabilities.
www.discovertechnology.com

**Harris County Department of Education**
Information about public education services in Harris County.
www.hcoe-texas.org

**Region IV Education Service Center (TEA)**
Supports public school teachers and staff. Trainings for professionals and parents offered. Their special education library is open for use by all education professionals.
http://www.esc4.net

### Employment/ Day Habilitation

**All the Little Things Count – Multiple Locations**
Day habilitation program with sheltered workshop, for HCS recipients from Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, and Wharton counties
http://www.allthelittlethingscount.org/

**American Habilitation Services – South Houston**
Supported employment primarily for HCS (Medicaid waiver program) recipients
www.ahsonline.com

**Bay Area Rehabilitation Center/Baytown Opportunity Center - Baytown**
Supervised work training, structured workshops and classrooms.
http://www.bayarearehab.org/

**Bethesda/Good Samaritan - Cypress**
Support ed employment for HCS recipients
www.bhs.org

**The Brookwood Community - Brookshire**
A residential community of adults with disabilities providing life skills, social, and vocational training
http://brookwoodcommunity.org

**The Center (CRI) - Central**
Adult activity center providing day habilitation with a sheltered workshop
www.cri-usa.org

**Goodwill of Houston: Employment Services – North Houston**
Job training, placement, and support for persons with disabilities
http://www.goodwillhouston.org/employment.htm

**Gulf Coast Community Services Association – Multiple Locations**
Adult literacy, GED, and ESL classes. Employment training and support services --- available in Spanish
http://www.gulfcoastcommunityservicesassociation.org/outreachoverview.html

**Goodwill of Houston: Employment Services**
http://www.goodwillhouston.org/employment.htm
### Local

**H.E.A.R.T. Program**
Specific vocational training program for gainful employment of individuals with developmental disabilities including intellectual disabilities and autism.
[www.heartprogram.org](http://www.heartprogram.org) 713-692-4278

**Hope Village - Friendswood**
Residential and day programs, including a developmental work center, for individuals with intellectual and other related developmental disabilities.
[www.hope-village.com](http://www.hope-village.com) 281-482-7926

**Lighthouse Vocational Educational Program (Lighthouse Houston)**
Vocational training for individuals with visual impairments. Also provides some adult day programming for individuals who are not able to maintain employment independently.
[http://www.houstonlighthouse.org/education-programs/#vocational](http://www.houstonlighthouse.org/education-programs/#vocational) 713-284-8422

**Mayor’s Committee for Employment of Persons w/Disabilities**
Provides support to job seekers with disabilities, and to employers.
[http://www.hmcep.org/](http://www.hmcep.org/) (website only)

**MHMRA (Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority)**
Various vocational programs for persons diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder or intellectual disabilities. Services available in Spanish.
[www.mhmraharris.org](http://www.mhmraharris.org) 713-970-7070

**Nightingale Vocational Rehabilitation Center – Southwest Houston**
Vocational rehabilitation
[www.reachunlimited.org](http://www.reachunlimited.org) 713-981-1543

**Reach Unlimited**
Vocation skills, independent living, day habilitation offered.
[www.reachunlimited.org](http://www.reachunlimited.org) 281-469-8058

**Sean Ashley House – Southwest Houston**
Adult day habilitation program for HCS (Medicaid waiver) recipients with individualized life skills training. Accepts non-HCS recipients also
[www.seanashleyhouse.org](http://www.seanashleyhouse.org) 713-667-6460

**Techs and Trainers – Southwest Houston**
Technology and skills training covering computer rebuilding

**Texana Mental Health Mental Retardation Center – Rosenberg**
Supported employment for persons with intellectual disabilities and/or mental illness

**Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services – Multiple Locations**
Provides vocational assessments, training, support, and assistive devices for individuals with disabilities who are seeking employment.
[www.dars.state.tx.us](http://www.dars.state.tx.us) 800-628-5115
[http://www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/offices/OfficeLocator.aspx](http://www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/offices/OfficeLocator.aspx) (for Houston rehabilitation locations)

**The Village Learning Center – Kingwood**
Life skills & job training for persons with learning disabilities & developmental delays.
[www.villageiac.org](http://www.villageiac.org) 281-358-6172

**Willow River Farms – Brookshire**
A residential community of adults with disabilities, an emphasis on artistic, craft, and gardening vocational skills.

**VAST (Vocational Advancement and Social Skills Training) Program of HCC – Various Locations**
Educational opportunities for individuals who have learning, developmental, and/or physical disabilities. Courses are offered in the following areas: Academic, Personal/Social Development, Enrichment and Computers.
[http://vast.hccs.edu/](http://vast.hccs.edu/) 713-718-6833

### Financial-Needs - Disability Related Financial Services

See [State Financial Assistance Resources (pg. 24-25)](http://www.heartprogram.org/)
### Local

#### Guardianship and Estate Planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>

#### Attorneys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attorney</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marissa Garcia (Spanish Speaking)</td>
<td>713-201-9740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michele Goldberg</td>
<td>713-218-8800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright Abshire Attorneys</td>
<td>713-961-9595</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Non-Attorney Guardianship and Estate Planning Assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steve Rhatigan</td>
<td>713-572-1717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Texas, Master Pooled Trust, Chris Oglesby</td>
<td>800-252-9729</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Housing and Home Modification/Accessibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coalition for Barrier Free Living – Southwest Houston &amp; Angleton</td>
<td>713-974-4621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf Coast Community Services Association – Multiple Locations</td>
<td>713-393-4700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.gulfcoastcommunityservicesassociation.org/outreachoverview.html">http://www.gulfcoastcommunityservicesassociation.org/outreachoverview.html</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Home of your Own Coalition,[formerlyHome of Your Own Program (HOYO)]</td>
<td>713-838-9050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.eastersealshouston.org/Adults/housing-initiative.html">http://www.eastersealshouston.org/Adults/housing-initiative.html</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Providers Association of Texas</td>
<td>512-452-8188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.ppat100.com">www.ppat100.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### General Legal Issues (See also - Educational Advocacy & Law)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disability Rights Texas: East Region (formerly Advocacy, Inc.)</td>
<td>713-974-7691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.disabilityrightstx.org">www.disabilityrightstx.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program</td>
<td>713-228-0732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.hvlp.org">www.hvlp.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Star Legal Aid</td>
<td>713-652-0077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DisputeResolutionCenter</td>
<td>713-755-8274</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local

Houston Lawyer Referral Service
http://hhrs.org/
713-237-9429

Legal Line
Free phone advice on 1st & 3rd Wednesday, each month, 5-9 pm
http://www.hba.org/folder-services/services.html#legalline
713-759-1133

Consejos Legales
Spanish version of Legal Line, 1st Thursday each month, 6-8 pm
713-755-1133

Medical Equipment & Adaptive Technology

Medco – Multiple Locations
Feeding supplies including formula, tubes, pumps. Also have incontinent supplies and suction equipment
http://www.e-medco.com/
800 245-3816

Texas Department of Assistive & Rehabilitative Services (DARS) Formerly Texas Rehabilitation Commission (TRC) – Vocational services including adaptive equipment (available to some graduating school students and older) with disabilities who will need assistance in gaining employment. Applicant guide available in Spanish.
www.dars.state.tx.us
http://www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/RehabTechLab.shtml
Spanish: www.dars.state.tx.us/Spanish.shtml

Respite

Local/State Agencies and Nonprofit Organizations that provide respite

Most of these have income requirements as well as disability related requirements. Check with each organization for specifics.

The Arc: Greater Houston Chapter
Ongoing, group respite activities in the community for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Children and adults served by differing programs. Fees for programs. Activities include: Saturday Fun Day, Adventure Club/Greater Houston Recreation, Weekend Respite, Summer-day and overnight camps.
www.aogh.org
713-957-1600

The Center
Day and overnight respite services for people with intellectual disabilities. Day respite is available on a partial or full day basis. Overnight respite stays cannot exceed 30 days. Fee for services.
www.cri-usa.org
713-525-8400

MHMRA of Harris County
All respite services require intake completion and there is typically a fairly long waiting list. However, they provide a wide range of respite services, including in-home respite if the individual qualifies. An intellectual disability and or an Autism spectrum diagnosis is required. Financial assistance if qualified.
http://www.mhmraharris.org/IDD/networkmanagement.htm
713-970-7616

Easter Seals of Greater Houston (formerly UCP Houston)
They provide respite services for individuals with Cerebral Palsy and other disabilities. Financial assistance may be provided in some cases. Respite activities include ongoing programs as well as in-home respite services.
www.eastersealshouston.org
713-838-9050

Social & Leisure

Adventure Club of The Arc: Greater Houston Chapter
Community-based activities for individuals with developmental disabilities, ages 15 and older. Activities are age appropriate (bowling, sporting events, theater, shopping excursions, and more).
http://www.aogh.org/AdventureClub.html
713-957-1600

Best Buddies – Various Locations
This program operates at several high school and colleges, to bring together students with and without intellectual difficulties for meaningful one-on-one relationships. There is also an e-buddies program for internet-capable students.
www.bestbuddiestexas.org
713-525-8478

Dionysus Theatre Troupe – Southwest Houston
Provides a theatre experience for teens and young adults who are disabled, disadvantaged, chronically ill, or those able-bodied actors who want to help us spread our message of love, dignity and tolerance for people of all abilities.
www.dionysustheatre.org
713-728-0041
### Local

**Dream Catcher Stables – Spring**
*Sliding scale.* Recreational horseback riding for persons with disabilities, including learning disabilities.
www.dreamcatcherstables.org

**Kids on the Block Puppet Troupe (Assistance League of Houston)**
A puppet show that teaches disability awareness to children. Performs at schools in HISD and Spring Branch.
http://www.assistanceleaguehou.org/ps.projects.cfm?ID=2470

**Metropolitan Multi-Service Center – Central**
A recreational & sports center for people of all ages with mental & physical disabilities.
www.houstontx.gov/parks/adolescentsports.html

**Nameless Sound Music Classes – Central/Southeast**
Music classes for special needs students
http://www.namelesssound.org/ensemble.html

**The River Performing and Visual Arts Center – Central**
A barrier-free, affordable arts enrichment program for children aged 2-19 with disabilities and/or chronic illness, as well as their siblings and friends.
www.theriver.org

**Saturday Fun Day – Central, Kingwood, & Cy-Fair**
A recreational day program for children and teens with intellectual disabilities, autism, and pervasive developmental disorders, ages 4 - 21. Meets two Saturdays per month. Siblings welcome! A program of The Arc: Greater Houston Chapter.
http://www.aogh.org/SaturdayFunDay.html

**Special Olympics – Houston**
Year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for persons eight years of age and older with intellectual disabilities.
http://www.sotx.org/about/areas/area04/

**Texas Adaptive Aquatics – Northeast/ Lake Houston**
*Some programs free.* Water sports for persons with physical and mental disabilities. All ability levels.
www.taasports.org

**Vern Cox Multi-purpose Center – Pasadena**
A recreational sports center for people of all ages with mental and physical disabilities.

**The Village Learning Center – Kingwood**
Social activities & support for persons with developmental delay & learning disorders.
www.villagelac.org

### Treatment Services (Behavioral and Medical)

**Ask Your Nurse (Harris County)**

**Asian American Family Counseling Center – Southwest Houston**
Culturally competent mental health services, information and referral for Asian Americans in Houston. Services in English, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean.
www.aafstexas.org

**The Battin Clinic – Galleria area & Nassau Bay**
Multidisciplinary assessment for children with neurocognitive, learning, behavioral, and emotional difficulties.

**Bay Area Rehabilitation Center**
Aquatic therapy, adult outpatient therapy, accessible housing, pediatric therapy, and counseling services
www.bayarearehab.org

**Texana Behavior Improvement Center (formally BTTC) –**
Therapeutic interventions for people with PDD/Autism, and IDs (Applied Behavior Analysis techniques).
http://www.texanacenter.com/bttc_day_treatment/base_bic.cfm?Nav=BIC

**Blue Bird Circle Clinic for Pediatric Neurology – Texas Children's Hospital**
www.texaschildrenshospital.org/carecenters/Neuro/Neurology/Default.aspx (CNF)
### Local

**The Center for Hearing and Speech – Central**

[www.centerhearingandspeech.org](http://www.centerhearingandspeech.org)

**Connections Center – Bellaire**
Information, training and curriculum for those who have an autism spectrum disorder.


**K.I.N.D.E.R. Clinic – Medical Center**
Social services for children and families affected by prenatal drug or alcohol exposure.


**HCPC (Harris County Psychiatric Center) – Medical Center**
A 250-bed acute care public psychiatric hospital. Also provides partial hospitalization and outpatient services. Services provided in Spanish and Vietnamese.

[http://hcpc.uthealth.edu](http://hcpc.uthealth.edu)

**Menninger Clinic (at Baylor College of Medicine) – Medical Center**
Comprehensive treatment for adults and adolescents with complex mental illness (co-occurring conditions), specializing in anxiety and eating disorders.


**Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County (MHMRA) – Various Locations**
Provides service to persons with intellectual disabilities, autism, and other developmental disorders, and services to persons with severe mental illness. This agency oversees several Medicaid waiver programs for people with developmental disabilities.

[www.mhmraharris.org](http://www.mhmraharris.org)

**Meyer Center for Developmental Pediatrics – Texas Children’s Hospital**
The Meyer Center provides diagnosis and individualized treatment planning for infants, children and adolescents with suspected developmental and/or learning problems. Provides written treatment plans and testing to parents and referring physicians.


**Multiple Sclerosis Comprehensive Care Center – Baylor College of Medicine**
Comprehensive patient care, research, and referrals for persons with multiple sclerosis. Services available in Spanish.

[http://www.bcm.edu/neurology/ms/](http://www.bcm.edu/neurology/ms/)

**SIRE – Hockley, Spring**
*Sliding scale.* Therapeutic horseback riding for persons with disabilities.

[http://sire-htec.org](http://sire-htec.org)

**TIRR (The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research) – Multiple Locations**
Interdisciplinary rehabilitation services, patient care, medical education, and research. Provides a complete continuum of care for patients needing medical rehabilitation.

[http://www.memorialhermann.org/locations/TIRR.html](http://www.memorialhermann.org/locations/TIRR.html)

**Winter & Associates Pediatric Rehabilitation Center – Southwest Houston**
A comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility for children, providing occupational, physical, and speech therapy. Provides transportation to those who qualify. Services provided in English, Spanish, Chinese, Cantonese, and Italian.

[www.winterpediatrictherapy.com](http://www.winterpediatrictherapy.com)

### Transportation/ Accessible Transportation

**Metro Lift**
Information about the accessibility of Houston Metro system, and how to use Metro Lift services.

[http://www.ridemetro.org/services/lift.aspx](http://www.ridemetro.org/services/lift.aspx)

### Other Need Support- General, not specifically disability related

**Basic Needs Support**

**Community Youth Services Resource Directory**
A wealth of information about Houston area programs serving children and families, including basic needs support, medical, psychological, and legal resources.

### Local

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ECHOS (Epiphany Community Health Outreach Services)</strong> – <em>Southwest Houston</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>713-270-0369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This program helps people without insurance gain access to existing health and social services, regardless of ability to pay or immigration status.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.echos-houston.org">www.echos-houston.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gateway to Care – Harris County</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>713-783-4616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information, low-cost community health care services for the uninsured and underinsured in Harris County.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Harris County Health System (Gold Card referral)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>713-873-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Harris County Hospital District program which provides access to county hospital and health services for persons with extremely low income. Call the above number for eligibility determination (part of the Ben Taub system)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gulf Coast Community Services Association – Multiple Locations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>713-393-4700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic needs assistance, including food pantry, clothing, prescription vouchers, bus tokens for employment, and employment training.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer Food Service Program – Multiple Locations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>713-676-6832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Free&quot;, Provides nutritious meals free to all children age 18 and younger at participating food sites. Does not require proof of income or registration. Services available in Spanish. For additional information call Summer Food Hotline at 2.1.1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/summerfood.html">http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/summerfood.html</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Crisis Services

In an emergency call 911  (Call 911 for an ambulance, the police, or the fire department during emergencies.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Protective Services</strong></td>
<td>800-252-5400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigates abuse and neglect of adults with disabilities, including financial exploitation, neglect by caregivers, and self-neglect.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/Default.aspx">http://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/Default.aspx</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Casa de Esperanza – Medical Center Area</strong></td>
<td>713-529-0639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary foster care for children ages zero to 6 who are at risk of abuse or neglect due to family crisis and/or the child’s special needs. Casework services provided to the family to develop a safe, stable environment for the child’s return.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.casahope.org">www.casahope.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child Protective Services</strong></td>
<td>800-252-5400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigates the abuse and neglect of children, including medical neglect. Provides services to families in crisis.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/Default.aspx">http://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/Default.aspx</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Crisis Intervention of Houston</strong></td>
<td>713.HOTLINE (713.468.5463)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides 24-hour crisis counseling by telephone. Also provides community education programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.crisishotline.org">www.crisishotline.org</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Houston Area Women’s Center</strong></td>
<td>713-528-6978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides shelter, counseling, and support services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Services available in Spanish.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.hawc.org">http://www.hawc.org</a></td>
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### General Childhood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child Builders</strong></td>
<td>713-481-6555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-profit organization advocating for children’s mental health and emotional wellness. Provides parents and children with resources and life skills training to build healthy families.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.childbuilders.org">www.childbuilders.org</a></td>
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</table>

### General Cultural Health Care Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arab-American Cultural and Community Center – Southwest Houston</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>832-351-3366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural and social programs, including free health screenings. Services available in Arabic.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.acchouston.org">www.acchouston.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Community Family Center – East Houston</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>713-923-2316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various community programs including health care and counseling. Services available in Spanish.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.communityfamilycenters.org">www.communityfamilycenters.org</a></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chinese Community Center – West Houston</strong></td>
<td>713-271-6100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referral and support for Asian-Americans and Asian immigrants to Houston. Offers some health, education and caregiver support services. Services available in Chinese.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.ccchouston.org">www.ccchouston.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vietnamese Culture and Science Association</strong></td>
<td>281-933-8118</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides cultural, health and educational programs for the Vietnamese community. Services available in Vietnamese. (Website is English only.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.vkhvn.org">www.vkhvn.org</a></td>
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</table>
State Resources of Texas

General Information and Support

All Disabilities/All Special Needs Inclusive Services & Information

Adapt of Texas  
Organization advocating to free people with disabilities from nursing homes and other institutions.  
http://adaptotexas.org

Disability Rights Texas  
Advocates, protects and advances the legal and service rights of people with disabilities by providing direct advocacy services.  
However, they only take cases that fall within their chosen focus areas for a given year. The website has great, downloadable publications on a variety of special education concerns. Services and some web information is available in Spanish.  
http://www.disabilityrightstx.org

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD)  
A grassroots organization that brings together diverse disability individuals and groups, as well as related parties like service provider organizations and state agencies.  
www.cotwd.org

(The) Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)  
One of five Texas state agencies for social services. They serve older Texans, persons with disabilities including persons with intellectual disabilities. Services can be comprehensive such as waiver services including HCS, CLASS and Texas Home Living Waiver. See State Financial Assistance Section (page 26 for more detail).  
http://www.dads.state.tx.us/index.cfm

(The) Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)  
One of five Texas state agencies for social services. DARS specifically offers disability services including rehabilitative services, Early Childhood Intervention (ECI), blind services and disability determination services. They have local offices across the state. See State Financial Assistance Section (page 26 for more detail).  
http://www.dars.state.tx.us/

(The) Department of State Health Services  
Oversees Children with Special Health Care Needs, comprehensive outpatient services, mental health services for children and adults (the mental health side—the Mental Health Authority—is now subsumed under this agency). See State Financial Assistance Section (page 26 for more detail).  
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/default.shtml

Early Childhood Intervention  
State agency responsible for early childhood (ages 0-3) disability intervention (overseen by DARS—see the above entry also)  
http://www.dars.state.tx.us/index.shtml

Texas Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities  
Division of the governor’s office that provides disability resources including statistics, history, services and more  
http://www.governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/

Texas Disability Law  
Summary of Texas Legislation affecting individuals with disabilities.  
http://governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/resources/

Texas Health and Human Services Commission  
One of five Texas state agencies. Oversees Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, food stamps and nutrition programs, family violence services, refugee services and disaster assistance  
http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/

Texas Information Referral (211 call line)  
Service of the state of Texas where the number 211 can be dialed via phone in Texas for disability information and referral about social, health and other services including state agencies.  
Simply Dial 211  
(If in Texas)

Texas Parent to Parent  
Supports children with disabilities, chronic illnesses and other special needs by empowering their families to be advocates for them through peer support, resource referral and public awareness.  
www.txp2p.org/
### Specific Types of Disability Services and Information

#### Autism

**Texas Council on Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disabilities**
- Texas council, established by Texas legislation, appointed by the governor that serves and advocates for the needs of individuals with Autism Spectrum and related disorders.
- [website](http://www.tdads.state.tx.us/autism/)

#### Blind and Visually Impaired

**Texas Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired**
- The association promotes and develops education and rehabilitation resources for those in Texas with visual impairments.
- [website](http://www.txaer.org/index.html)

**Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired**
- Serves as a special public school in the continuum of statewide placements for students who have a visual impairment.
- Students, ages 6 through 21, who are blind, deaf-blind, or visually impaired, including those with additional disabilities, are eligible for consideration for services on the TSBVI campus. It is also a statewide resource to parents of these children and the professionals who serve them, from birth through transition from school.
- [website](http://www.tsbvi.edu/)

**Texas Talking Books**
- *Free.* Audiotape, Braille, and large print formats for books and magazines available for loan through the Texas library system.
- Materials are delivered to the home at no charge. For Texans of all ages who are unable to read standard print material due to visual, physical, or reading disabilities—whether permanent or temporary.
- [website](http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/tbp)

#### Brain Injury

**Brain Injury Association of Texas**
- Information, referral and advocacy for persons affected by brain injury.
- [website](http://www.biatx.org)

#### Deaf and Hearing Impairment

**Deaf Network of Texas**
- Association for those with hearing impairments. Meetings, support and blogs.
- [website](http://deafnetwork.com/wordpress/)

**Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing**
- The Department of Rehabilitative Services runs these programs and services for those with hearing impairments.
- [website](http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/)

**Texas Association of the Deaf**
- Association for those with hearing impairments. Meetings, support and blogs.
- [website](http://deaftexas.org/wp/)

#### Epilepsy

**Epilepsy Foundation of Central and South Texas**
- Working to improve the lives of the adults and children with epilepsy in Texas.
- [website](http://www.eftx.org/)

#### Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

**Texas Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Consortium**
- Consortium of agencies in Texas whose goal is to increase FAS awareness. Offer meetings, conferences, and web resources.
- [website](http://www.topdd.state.tx.us/fasd/)

#### Intellectual Disabilities

**The Arc of Texas**
- Texas headquarter for the Arc, providing state and national advocacy for individuals with intellectual and other related developmental disabilities. They also publish, in conjunction with Disability Rights Texas, It's a New IDEA which can be downloaded for free from their website.
- [website](http://www.thearcoftexas.org)
### State

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<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Details and Contact Information</th>
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### Learning Disabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Details and Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learning Disabilities Association of Texas</td>
<td>Information and support for parents regarding special education and other disability related needs in Texas <a href="http://www.idat.org">www.idat.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Mental Illness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Details and Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health America of Texas</td>
<td>A broad-based citizens’ movement organized to promote mental health, prevent mental illness through research and education, and improve care and treatment for persons with mental illnesses. <a href="http://www.mhatexas.org">http://www.mhatexas.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) Texas Branch</td>
<td>Training and support groups for families experiencing mental illness as well as consumer support groups and psycho-educational classes <a href="http://namitexas.org">http://namitexas.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Mental Health Consumer Resources</td>
<td>Directory of Texas mental health services from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) <a href="http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhservices/mhconsumerfamilysupports.shtm">http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhservices/mhconsumerfamilysupports.shtm</a></td>
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</table>

### Child Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Details and Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas Child Care Licensing (TDFPS) – Austin (Statewide)</td>
<td>Online search information regarding valid licensing for child care, revoked child care licenses and more <a href="http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Search_Texas_Child_Care/CCLNET/Source/CPA/ppSearchTXChildCare2.aspx">http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Search_Texas_Child_Care/CCLNET/Source/CPA/ppSearchTXChildCare2.aspx</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Care Resources from Texas 211</td>
<td>Contains options for searching for child care for special needs children in Texas. Can do the search online <a href="https://www.211texas.org/211/search/childcare/main.do">https://www.211texas.org/211/search/childcare/main.do</a></td>
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### Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Details and Contact Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Association on Higher Education and Disability</td>
<td>Nonprofit organization comprised of disability service providers in higher education <a href="http://www.ahead.org/affiliates/texas">http://www.ahead.org/affiliates/texas</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)</td>
<td>Serves children ages birth to three who have or are at risk of developmental delays. <a href="http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/index.shtml">www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/index.shtml</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Education Agency - Special Education</td>
<td>A great source of special education laws, regulations and other educational topics under Texas Education Agency control <a href="http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed">www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed</a></td>
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### Educational Advocacy and Law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Details and Contact Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disability Rights Texas (formerly Advocacy, Inc.)</td>
<td>Provides direct advocacy services for individuals with disabilities. However, they only take cases that fall within their chosen focus areas for a given year. The web site has great, downloadable publications on a variety of special education concerns. Services and many web publications are available in Spanish. <a href="http://www.disabilityrightstx.org">www.disabilityrightstx.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEA: The Manual for Parents and Students about Special Education Services in Texas</td>
<td>Jointly created (The Arc of Texas and Disability Rights Texas) handbook of special education law. Example letters and forms included. <a href="http://framework.esc18.net/display/Webforms/LandingPage.aspx">website only</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Legal Framework</td>
<td>A project maintained by the Region 18 Texas Education Service Center- provides a guide to Texas education law as well as national education law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). Part of Texas Improvement Process. 432-561-4332</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### State

**Office of Civil Rights - Texas Branch (US Dept. of Education)**
For assistance related to civil rights in school contexts. They suggest that families e-mail or fax concerns to: E-mail: OCR.Dallas@ed.gov; FAX: 214.661.9587

**Partners Resource Network**
Empowering Texas parents of children and youth with disabilities in their roles as parents, decision makers, and advocates for their children.

**Texas Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates**
Provides directory of attorneys and other resources for Texas special education needs and interests

**Texas Project First**
TEA sponsored/parent organization created - special education, informational website. TEA compliance project in conjunction with Region 9 Education Service Center. All info is TEA approved/sanctioned. Grants provided to Family To Family Network for website creation and upkeep.

**Texas Senate**
You can link to your local/state senators to weigh in on educational legislation

**Texas House of Representatives**
You can link to your local/state house representatives to weigh in on educational legislation

**TEA Information Regarding Making Special Education Complaints**
Form making complaints that concern Special Education in Texas public schools. Remember, also put complaints in writing and mail or fax them. This makes the complaint official.

**TEA Special Education**
A great source of special education laws, regulations and other educational topics under Texas Education Agency control

**Texas Talking Books**
*Free.* Audiotape, Braille, and large print formats for books and magazines available for loan through the Texas library system. Materials are delivered to the home at no charge. For Texans of all ages who are unable to read standard print material due to visual, physical, or reading disabilities—whether permanent or temporary.

### Employment

**Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (formally TRC) – Multiple Locations**
Provides vocational assessments, training, support, and assistive devices for individuals with disabilities who are seeking employment.

### Financial Assistance

**Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**

**Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) - formally CIDC**
Texas Department of State Health Services oversees this service. For children with a chronic physical or developmental condition that will last longer than 12 months. For those with intellectual disabilities and /autism/ADHD/ and mental health disabilities there must be a co-occurring, health need related to bodily tissues such as a seizure disorder, cerebral palsy or any condition that has physical manifestations. (This funding is also available to a person of any age who has Cystic Fibrosis.) The child may have Medicaid or CHIP already but the funds from the two services must have been exhausted before CSHSN use. Web site available in Spanish. [www.dshs.state.tx.us/CSHCN/](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/CSHCN/)
### Waiver Programs

**Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS)**

The Department of Aging and Disability Services oversees this program.

Provides home and community-based services as a cost effective alternative to placement in an intermediate care facility for people with related condition disabilities that affect their ability to function in daily life (ICF-MR/RC). This program is not state wide and has a long waiting list. Eligibility: No age requirements, but the individual must have had the onset of the disability (other than mental retardation and it must affect the ability to function in daily life) before age 22. He or she must meet the ICF-MR/RC Level of Care criteria, have a demonstrated need for habilitation, have an approved Individual Service Care Plan for waiver services and reside in the geographic jurisdiction area. Financial eligibility criteria allows for special exclusions for children with disabilities. Administered through the Department of Aging and Disability Services although financial eligibility is determined by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Long waiting list—call the listed phone # to be placed on this list.

[http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/CLASS/index.cfm](http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/CLASS/index.cfm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>877-438-5658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800-458-9858</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Community Based Alternatives**

The Department of Aging and Disability Services oversees this program.

Provides home and community-based services to people who are elderly and to adults with disabilities as a cost-effective alternative to living in a nursing home. DADS employees provide case management services. Must be 21 or older. May have a disability or be elderly. Must meet medical necessity for a nursing home determination. Must choose waiver services over nursing home based on informed choice. Contact your local DADS office to be placed on the waiting list for services.

[http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm](http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm)

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<tr>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>512-438-3011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800-458-9858</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) Medicaid Waiver Program**

The Department of Aging and Disability Services oversees this program.

Support for families caring for children who are medically dependent and to encourage de-institutionalization of children in nursing homes. This is a Medicaid home and community-based waiver program. Very long waiting list. If useful for a child, get on it ASAP. Eligibility: The child must meet the medical necessity criteria (as diagnosed by a physician) although financial eligibility is determined by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission for home nursing care. Eligibility ends at age 21. Administered through the Department of Aging and Disability Services although financial eligibility is determined by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Call the listed phone # to be placed on this list.

[http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/MDCP/index.cfm](http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/MDCP/index.cfm)

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<tr>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>877-438-5658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800-458-9858</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Home and Community Based Services (HCS) Medicaid Waiver Program**

The Department of Aging and Disability Services oversees this program.

Very long waiting list. Large range of comprehensive service options such as therapy, residential assistance and case management. No age limit. Cannot be enrolled in another Medicaid waiver program. Expenses over $20,000 per year. Must have a diagnosis of an intellectual or related disability. Administered through the Department of Aging and Disability Services although financial eligibility is determined by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Contact your local mental retardation authority (MRA) to be placed on this list.

[http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/HCS/index.cfm](http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/HCS/index.cfm)

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<tr>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>512-438-3011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800-458-9858</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Texas Home Living Waiver Program**

The Department of Aging and Disability Services oversees this program.

Large range of comprehensive services such as therapy, residential assistance and case management up to the amount of $20,000 per year. Must live at home with family or in independent home (no group homes). Diagnosis of mental retardation required. Cannot be enrolled in another Medicaid waiver program. No age limit. Administered through the Department of Aging and Disability Services although financial eligibility is determined by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Contact your local mental retardation authority (MRA) to be placed on this list.

[http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/TxHmL/index.cfm](http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/TxHmL/index.cfm)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>512-438-3011</td>
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<tr>
<td>800-458-9858</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### General Social and Government Issues

**Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP)**

Non-partisan research organization committed to improving public policies.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>512-320-0222</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Citizen’s Opinion Hotline**

Callers or internet users can leave a message for the governor on matters of public interest.

[http://governor.state.tx.us/contact/](http://governor.state.tx.us/contact/)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>800-252-9600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Legal Issues (also see Educational Advocacy & Law)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disability Rights Texas: East Region (formerly Advocacy, Inc.)</td>
<td>800-252-9108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecs and advocates for the legal rights of persons with disabilities in Texas. Services available in Spanish.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.disabilityrightstx.org">www.disabilityrightstx.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardianship Alliance of Texas</td>
<td>512-424-6599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information, referral, and public hearings regarding guardianship issues in Texas.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/si/gab/index.html">http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/si/gab/index.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Appleseed</td>
<td>512-473-2800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and reports on disability concerns. Handbook for individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families to help navigate the criminal justice system. Legislative action.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.texasappleseed.net">www.texasappleseed.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Civil Rights Project</td>
<td>512-474-5073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A nonprofit group which educations the public about civil rights in Texas, and brings suit against state agencies to protect civil rights.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.texascivilrightsportex.org">http://www.texascivilrightsportex.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Lawyers Care</td>
<td>800-204-2222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An on-line directory of free or low cost legal services available to lower income Texans. Also contains information about how to file complaints against public agencies.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.texasbar.com">www.texasbar.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Juvenile Justice Department</td>
<td>512-424-6700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Medical Services, Equipment & Adaptive Technology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Mend</td>
<td>888-903-6363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical equipment, supplies, and other services for low-income individuals with disabilities.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.projectmend.org/">http://www.projectmend.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star Plus Program</td>
<td>800-964-2777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides regular medical health and long-term services and supports for people who receive supplemental social security income. For people who also have Medicare health coverage, Star Plus only provides long-term services and supports. STAR Plus services are provided by health maintenance organizations (HMOs) called health plans.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dads.state.tx.us/handbooks/sph/">http://www.dads.state.tx.us/handbooks/sph/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Department of Assistive &amp; Rehabilitative Services (DARS) – Multiple Locations</td>
<td>800-628-5115 Houston Office 713-735-3470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational services, including when needed, adaptive technology, available to graduating school students with disabilities who will need assistance in gaining employment. Applicant guide available in Spanish.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dars.state.tx.us/">http://www.dars.state.tx.us/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Technology Access Project</td>
<td>800-828-7839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides information, conducts training, and works with policy makers to support individuals with disabilities in their efforts to acquire and use technology as a routine part of day-to-day living. Services available in Spanish.</td>
<td><a href="http://tatp.edb.utexas.edu/">http://tatp.edb.utexas.edu/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Social & Leisure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Olympics - Texas</td>
<td>800-876-5646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for persons eight years of age and older with intellectual disabilities.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sotx.org">http://www.sotx.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## State

**Texas Talking Books**
*Free.* Audiotape, Braille, and large print formats for books and magazines available for loan through the Texas library system. Materials are delivered to the home at no charge. For Texans of all ages who are unable to read standard print material due to visual, physical, or reading disabilities—whether permanent or temporary.

[www.tsl.state.tx.us/tbp](http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/tbp)

**VSA Arts of Texas**
Creates learning opportunities through the arts for persons with disabilities, and supports creative expressions by persons with disabilities.

[www.vsatx.org](http://www.vsatx.org)

## Treatment

**Health Professions Complaint Referral System**
Automated line directs caller to the correct department to initiate complaints against health professionals, including doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, and other medical workers.

[http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/](http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/)

**Texas Network for Children (Youth for Tomorrow)**
Internet database containing information on more than 500 residential treatment providers in Texas. Updated each week. Searchable by age, diagnosis, and reimbursement source.

[www.yft.org](http://www.yft.org)
## National Resources

### General Information & Support (1st by all disability applicable services, 2nd by type of disability applicable service)

#### All Disabilities/All Special Needs Information and Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>About Face</td>
<td>800-665-3223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides information and social support to individuals with facial differences, and their families.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://aboutface.ca">http://aboutface.ca</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)</td>
<td>800-840-8844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A meeting ground for all persons with disabilities to become informed and become active in advocating for disability rights and services.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Disability Association (ADA)</td>
<td>205-328-9090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotes awareness of disability culture and works to enhance quality of life and access to freedom for persons with disabilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.adanet.org">www.adanet.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</td>
<td>800-232-4636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal agency responsible for promoting good health practices and providing credible information on all health topics. Web site contains an A to Z list of health topics. Most topics available in Spanish.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD)</td>
<td>202-783-2229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coalition of 100 national disability organizations working together to advocate for changes in public policy that promote independence, empowerment, &amp; inclusion for persons with disabilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.c-c-d.org">www.c-c-d.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council for Disability Rights</td>
<td>(website only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocates for public policy change through education and information.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.disabilityrights.org">www.disabilityrights.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disABILITY Information and Resource</td>
<td>(website only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Really useful information on disability issues, with a large focus on assistive technology and medical links. Interesting collection of advocacy links, too.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.makoa.org">www.makoa.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DisabilityInfo.gov</td>
<td>(website only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official federal website for reporting on federal initiatives for disability needs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.disabilityinfo.gov">www.disabilityinfo.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Seals</td>
<td>800-221-6827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability advocacy. Also provides referrals to local services for persons with disabilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.easter-seals.org">www.easter-seals.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Village (University of Wisconsin)</td>
<td>(website only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numerous links and resources for a wide variety of disability-related concerns.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu">www.familyvillage.wisc.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kid's Quest on Disability and Health (CDC)</td>
<td>(website only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site for children to help them understand disabilities and learn how to interact with children who have special needs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/kids/">www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/kids/</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Council on Disability</td>
<td>202-272-2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent advocacy information as well as government reports on a variety of disability-related studies that can be downloaded for free.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.ncd.gov">www.ncd.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Organization on Disability (NOD)</td>
<td>646-505-1191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raises disability awareness through educational programs, with an emphasis on inclusion and participation.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.nod.org">www.nod.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACER Center</td>
<td>888-248-0822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An advocacy organization based in Minnesota working to improve the quality of life for children with disabilities through parent to parent networking and community collaboration.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.pacer.org">www.pacer.org</a></td>
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</tr>
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</table>
### National

**People with Disabilities Foundation (PWDF)**  
Education and advocacy for persons with disabilities.  
www.pwdf.org  
415-931-3070

**Public Citizen Health Research Group (E-letter)**  
Founded by Ralph Nadar, this organization promotes research-based, system-wide changes in health care policy, with particular emphasis on psychiatric drugs. Contains a drug information database detailing common psychiatric drugs.  
http://www.citizen.org/hrg/  
202-546-4996

**TASH**  
A community for families, individuals, service providers, and educators working to promote inclusion and opportunity for all persons with disabilities.  
www.tash.org  
202-540-9020

**Through the Looking Glass**  
A dialogue between people with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, siblings, spouses and adult children of parents with disabilities, emphasizing a life cycle approach which integrates perspectives gained from personal and family disability. Information available in Spanish.  
www.lookingglass.org  
800-644-2666

**Wide Smiles**  
A nice site for resources and links to a wide variety of interests for those with special needs, including some interesting information on concerns related to having a cleft palate.  
www.widesmiles.org  
209-942-2812

### Specific Disabilities Information and Services

**ADD/ADHD**

**ADDinSchool.com**  
Information about a number of treatment resources and strategies for parents and teachers.  
www.addinschool.com  
(website only)

**Children and Adults with ADD/ADHD (CHADD)**  
Information, referral and support. Web site available in Spanish.  
www.chadd.org  
301-306-7070

**Autism, Asperger Syndrome, & PDD**

**Aspie.com**  
Web page with basic resources regarding Asperger syndrome.  
http://www.aspie.com/  
(website only)

**Asperger Syndrome Organization (OASIS)**  
Website covering many aspects of Asperger Syndrome.  
http://www.aspergerssyndrome.org/  
(website only)

**Autism National Committee (AUTCOM)**  
A national "think tank" advancing the research, understanding and practice of positive, relationship-and communication-based approaches to assisting children and adults with autism.  
www.autcom.org  
(website only)

**Autism Now**  
National resource and information organization  
http://autismnow.org/  
855-828-8476

**Autism-PDD Resources Network**  
A good site for a variety of information related to this disability.  
www.autism-pdd.net/  
(website only)

**Autism Research Institute (ARI)**  
Conducts research into the causes of autism and on methods of preventing, diagnosing and treating autism and other severe behavioral disorders of childhood.  
www.autism.com/ari/  
(website only)

**Autism Society of America (ASA)**  
Promotes lifelong access and opportunity for all individuals within the autism spectrum, and their families, to be fully participating, included members of their community.  
www.autism-society.org  
301-657-0881
### National

**Autistics.org**
Very useful site created by people with autism stressing self-independence and self-advocacy.
www.autistics.org

**The Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies**
Nonprofit research organization. Covers research related issues for applied behavior analysis (ABA) techniques.
http://www.behavior.org/

**Families of Adults Afflicted with Asperger Syndrome**
Education and support for families of adults with Asperger Syndrome.
www.faas.org

**Families for the Early Treatment of Autism (FEAT)**
National nonprofit with branches in many states, including Texas.
wwwfeat.org

**MAAP Services**
Information for and about individuals with high functioning autism/Asperger Syndrome.
www.maapservices.org

**Tony Attwood’s site**
A website for parents, professionals and people with Asperger Syndrome. Mr. Attwood has developed a number of publications and products concerning Asperger Syndrome.

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### Blind and Visual Impairment

**Assistive Media**
Provides "free" access to audio files of a wide variety of printed material over the internet.
www.assistivemedia.org

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### Brain Injury

**Brain Injury Association of America**
Information, referral, and advocacy for persons with brain injury.
www.biausa.org

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### Cerebral Palsy

**American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine**
Multidisciplinary scientific society devoted to the study of cerebral palsy and other childhood onset disabilities. Contains information & referral about CP and other developmental disorders.
www.aacpd.org/index?service=Home

**Cerebral Palsy Connection**
Families share information and stories about their experiences with CP.
www.cpconnection.com

**UCP (formerly United Cerebral Palsy)**
As one of the largest health charities in America, UCP’s mission is to advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with cerebral palsy and other disabilities.
www.ucp.org

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### Down Syndrome

**The Down Syndrome Information Network**
An on-line library concerning Down Syndrome and related topics.
www.down-syndrome.org

**Karen Gaffney Foundation**
Karen Gaffney, a woman with Down Syndrome, graduated from high school with a full diploma, created her own web site and foundation, and does public speaking engagements advocating for the types of supports that helped her succeed.
www.karengaffneyfoundation.com

**Mosaic Down Syndrome on the Web**
Information related to Mosaic Down Syndrome, compiled by a mother who could not find information on the subject when her daughter was born.
www.mosaicdownsyndrome.com

**National Down Syndrome Congress**
Advocacy for persons with Down Syndrome and their families.
www.ndsccenter.org
### National

#### National Down Syndrome Society
Information and referral, focused on education, research, and advocacy for persons with Down Syndrome and their families. Information available in Spanish.
[www.ndss.org](http://www.ndss.org)

#### Dyslexia

**International Dyslexia Association**
Information about dyslexia, and links to related sites and support groups. Some information available in Spanish.
[www.interdyse.org](http://www.interdyse.org)

**National Center for Learning Disabilities**
Wealth of information about dyslexia and other learning disabilities

#### Epilepsy

**Epilepsy Foundation**
Information, referral, support, and advocacy for persons with epilepsy.
[www.epilepsyfoundation.org](http://www.epilepsyfoundation.org)

#### Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

**The Arc of the United States**
Has numerous materials about fetal alcohol syndrome as well as other developmental disabilities. Type in FAS once you have reached their Website to download information or send for FAS/FAE kits and self-advocacy materials.
[www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org/)

**FAS Community Resource Center**
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: support, training, advocacy, and many printed resources. Videos, posters, brochures, presentations, and workshops for prevention and intervention. Website is loaded with information and resources for parents and professionals.
[www.come-over.to/FASCRC](http://www.come-over.to/FASCRC)

**National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome**
Develops and implements innovative community based and culturally appropriate prevention, intervention, education and advocacy strategies nationwide. Comprehensive information available
[www.nofas.org](http://www.nofas.org/)

#### Fragile X Syndrome

**FRAXA Research Foundation**
A group founded by three parents of children with Fragile X Syndrome that supports scientific research aimed at finding a treatment and a cure.
[www.fraxa.org](http://www.fraxa.org)

**National Fragile X Foundation**
Information about Fragile X Syndrome and links to related sites. Available in Spanish.

#### Intellectual Disabilities

**Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**
Information about intellectual and related disabilities. AAMR promotes progressive policies, sound research, effective practices, and universal human rights for people with intellectual disabilities.
[http://www.aamr.org/index.cfm](http://www.aamr.org/index.cfm)

**The Arc of the United States**
Good resource for learning about developmental disabilities. Great link to government officials where you can e-mail representatives with disability advocacy concerns (Action Center web page).
[www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org)

**The Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies**
Nonprofit research organization. Covers research related issues for applied behavior analysis (ABA) techniques.

**CogLink**
Helps individuals with cognitive disabilities set up and use e-mail accounts
### National

#### National Association for the Dually Diagnosed
Promotes treatment services for individuals who have developmental disabilities and mental health needs.
[www.thenadd.org](http://www.thenadd.org)

#### Klinefelter's Syndrome

**Klinefelter Syndrome Support Group**
Information about Klinefelter Syndrome and links to local support groups.
[www.klinefeltersyndrome.org](http://www.klinefeltersyndrome.org)

### Learning Disorders

#### Coordinated Campaign for Learning Disabilities
Good starting point for researching types of learning disabilities. Available in Spanish.
[www.aboutld.org](http://www.aboutld.org)

#### International Dyslexia Association
Information about dyslexia, and links to related sites and support groups. Available in Spanish.
[www.interdyse.org](http://www.interdyse.org)

#### LD On Line
 Huge amount of accommodation, modification, and curriculum information related to disabilities.
[www.ldonline.org](http://www.ldonline.org)

#### Learning Disabilities Association of America
For families, and the professionals who work with them. Their purpose is to advance the education and general welfare of children and adults with learning disabilities.
[www.ldanatl.org](http://www.ldanatl.org)

#### Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes
Special learning/tutoring program for children with learning disorders, including dyslexia.
[www.lbp.com](http://www.lbp.com)

#### Nat’l Assoc for the Education of African-American Children w/Learning Disabilities
Information, referral, and research into special education and learning disorders in minority populations.

#### Nonverbal Learning Disorders
Committed to facilitating education, research and advocacy for children and adults who manifest disabilities associated with the syndrome of nonverbal learning disorders

### Mental Illness

#### Anxiety and Depression Disorders Association of America
Dedicated to informing the public, healthcare professionals and legislators that anxiety disorders are real, serious and treatable. Provides information, referral, and support.
[www.adaa.org](http://www.adaa.org)

#### The Balanced Mind Foundation
Information about early onset bi-polar disorder.
[www.bpkids.org](http://www.bpkids.org)

#### Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)
Working to improve the lives of persons with mood disorders.
[www.dbssalliance.org](http://www.dbssalliance.org)

#### Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health
A network of local organizations advocating for children’s mental health issues.
[www.ffcmh.org](http://www.ffcmh.org)

#### HealthyPlace.com
Information on various mental health disorders and disabilities.
[www.healthyplace.com](http://www.healthyplace.com)

#### National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)
Information, referral, and advocacy for persons with mental illness and their families.
[www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)

#### Brain Behavior Research Foundation
Supports research into finding the causes, better treatments and eventual cures for schizophrenia and other illnesses
[www.narsad.org](http://www.narsad.org)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National</th>
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</table>
| **National Association for the Dually Diagnosed**  
Promotes treatment services for individuals who have developmental disabilities and mental health needs.  
www.thenadd.org | 800-331-5362 |
| **The International Foundation for Research & Education on Depression**  
Information, referral, and support for persons experiencing depression.  
www.ifred.org | (website only) |
| **National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)**  
Federal agency conducting research into the causes and treatment of mental illness. Provides free brochures to educate the public about mental illness and related issues. Most brochures available in Spanish.  
www.nimh.nih.gov | 866-615-6464 |
| **Mental Health America**  
Advocacy, education, and research into issues pertaining to mental health and mental illness.  
www.nmha.org | 800-969-6642 |

**Muscular Dystrophy**

| Muscular Dystrophy Association  
A research, education, and community services organization serving persons with neuromuscular disease. Information available in Spanish.  
www.mdausa.org | (website only) |

**Prader-Willi Syndrome**

| Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (PWSA)  
Information, referral and support for persons and families affected by Prader-Willi Syndrome.  
www.pwsausa.org | 800-926-4797 |

**Rett Syndrome**

| International Rett Syndrome Association  
Information, referral, support and advocacy for persons with Rett Syndrome.  
www.rettsyndrome.org | 800-818-7388 |
| Rett Syndrome Research Trust  
Created by six parents of children with Rett Syndrome to find treatments and a cure.  
www.rstf.org | 203-445-0041 |

**Tourette Syndrome**

| Tourette Syndrome Association (TSA)  
Working to identify the cause of, find the cure for, and control the effects of Tourette Syndrome.  
www.tsa-usa.org | 718-224-2999 |
| Tourette Syndrome Plus  
Information and stories compiled by a psychologist treating persons with Tourette Syndrome, who is also the mother of two children with Tourette Syndrome.  
www.tourettesyndrome.net | (website only) |

**Williams Syndrome**

| The Williams Syndrome Association  
Devoted to improving the lives of individuals with Williams syndrome by supporting research into all facets of the syndrome, and developing up to date educational materials.  
www.williams-syndrome.org | 800-806-1871 |

**Caregiver Support**

| ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center  
Excellent clearing house for information about respite and other caregiver issues.  
www.archrespite.org | 206-632-5208 |
## National

**Caregiver.com**  
On-line magazine providing information, support, and guidance for family caregivers.  
[www.caregiver.com](http://www.caregiver.com)

**National Family Caregivers Association (NFCA)**  
Organization supporting and advocating for family caregivers.  
[www.nfcacares.org](http://www.nfcacares.org)

**Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI)**  
Supports research, education, and training to promote mental health and well-being of individual, family, and professional caregivers. Good caregiver resource page for linking to supports.  
[http://rci.gwu.edu/](http://rci.gwu.edu/)

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### Child Care

**National Network for Child Care**  
Information and referral for choosing child care.  
[www.nncc.org](http://www.nncc.org)

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### Education

#### Support for Educators and Parents

**About Special Education**  
Good site for information on many disabilities and related concerns.  
[http://www.specialed.about.com/](http://www.specialed.about.com/)

**All Kinds of Minds**  
Non-profit organization founded by Dr. Mel Levine for the purpose of educating parents, teachers and other professionals about learning differences, and how to approach differences in learning.  
[www.allkindsofminds.org](http://www.allkindsofminds.org)

**Center on Community Living and Careers**  
Good site for transition information. A service of Indiana University  
[www.iidc.indiana.edu/cclc](http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/cclc)

**Do 2 Learn**  
Teacher and parent material for use with children who have cognitive disabilities. Offers some free downloads  
[www.do2learn.com](http://www.do2learn.com)

**HEATH Resource Center**  
A national clearing house for postsecondary education for persons with disabilities.  
[www.heath.gwu.edu/](http://www.heath.gwu.edu/)

**Inclusion Daily**  
Good resource for inclusion ideas as well as advocacy issues.  

**National Center on Secondary Education and Transition**  
Great site for transition and disability related information.  
[www.ncset.org](http://www.ncset.org)

**National Center on Education Outcomes (NCEO)**  
Great resource for accessing special education data (national and some state).  
[www.nceo.info](http://www.nceo.info)

**National Information Center on Children and Youth with Disabilities**  
Great free, downloadable publications that cover virtually all aspects of special needs and education concerns  
[www.nichcy.org/](http://www.nichcy.org/)  
Spanish: [http://www.nichcy.org/spanish.htm](http://www.nichcy.org/spanish.htm)

**National Center on Special Education Research**  
Good source of information on research related to effective special education.  

**Office of Special Education: US Department of Education**  
They have links to educational resources, law information as well as updates on nation level, special education topics.  
[www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osep/osep/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osep/osep/index.html)
### National Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pro Ed on line</strong></td>
<td>800-897-3202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publishes quality assessment, curriculum and research tools for students with disabilities, as well as several interesting professional journals and books. Based in Austin.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.proedinc.com">www.proedinc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Participate</strong></td>
<td>(website only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good site for inclusion strategies and inclusion success stories.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.projectparticipate.org/">http://www.projectparticipate.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Speaking of Speech</strong></td>
<td>(website only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A place to share ideas about special education for speech and language disabilities.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.speakingofspeech.com">www.speakingofspeech.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Education News</strong></td>
<td>(website only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides very up-to-date information on special education issues.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.specialednews.com/">www.specialednews.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Education Resources on the Internet (SERI)</strong></td>
<td>(website only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of internet resources relating to various aspects of special education.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.seriweb.com">www.seriweb.com</a></td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Educational Advocacy & Law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CADRE (Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education)</strong></td>
<td>(website only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides technical assistance to education agencies in compliance with the mediation requirement in IDEA. Provides information to parents &amp; other professionals about special education mediation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.directions-service.org/cadre">www.directions-service.org/cadre</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Center for Education and Employment Law (formerly Oakstone Legal)</strong></td>
<td>800-365-4900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Council of Parent Attorney and Advocates (COPAA)</strong></td>
<td>(website only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great site for special education law concerns.</td>
<td><a href="http://copaa.net/">http://copaa.net/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education Law Association</strong></td>
<td>937-229-3589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit organization offering information about current legal issues affecting education. Organization consists mainly of attorneys, professors and school professionals.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.educationlaw.org">www.educationlaw.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Families and Advocates Partnership for Education (FAPE)</strong></td>
<td>952-838-9000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useful advocacy site with information on No Child Left Behind and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fape.org">www.fape.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FindLaw</strong></td>
<td>(website only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great source for obtaining actual laws related to special education and other concerns.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.findlaw.com">www.findlaw.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004</strong></td>
<td>(website only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LRP Publications</strong></td>
<td>(website only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal publications addressing detailed aspects of IDEA, focused on the minimum legal requirements of special education. Intended for school professionals.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lrp.com">www.lrp.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mayerson and Associates (Mayerslaw)</strong></td>
<td>212-265-7200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A special education advocacy site. Nice synopsis of landmark court cases.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mayerslaw.com">www.mayerslaw.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Dissemination Center on Children and Youth with Disabilities</strong></td>
<td>(website only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### National

**No Child Left Behind**  
Official government site for the No Child Left Behind Act. Some information in Spanish.  

**Office for Civil Rights (Department of Education)**  
The national website for the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education. Provides contact information for complaints about schools by state.  

**OSERS (Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services)**  
Some interesting research as well as occasional updates on national level special education issues. Some information available in Spanish.  
[http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html?src=mr](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html?src=mr)

**Wrightslaw**  
Great site for special education law and advocacy information. A wealth of free advocacy information.  
[www.wrightslaw.com](http://www.wrightslaw.com) and for their blog [http://www.wrightslaw.com/blog/](http://www.wrightslaw.com/blog/)

### Employment

**The Association for Persons in Supported Employment (APSE)**  
Working to improve and expand integrated employment opportunities, services, and outcomes for persons experiencing disabilities.  
[www.apse.org](http://www.apse.org)

**The Center for Education and Employment Law (formerly Oakstone Legal)**  
 Produces technical publications regarding IDEA and ADA law interpretations. Good source for finding detailed legal documents.  

**Disability.gov (Find Information on Employment)**  
Good resources for employment needs and disability topics. The national resources option link is quite comprehensive.  
[https://www.disability.gov/employment#map](https://www.disability.gov/employment#map)

**Goodwill Industries International**  
Working to eliminate barriers to opportunity for people with special needs, particularly in the area of employment  
[www.goodwill.org](http://www.goodwill.org)

**National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability**  
Technical assistance on employment of people with disabilities  
[www.ncwd-youth.info](http://www.ncwd-youth.info)

**Office of Disability Employment Policy**  
Resources on disability and employment legislation  

**Ticket to Work**  
New legislation gives individuals receiving disability benefits greater freedom to work and earn income without losing benefits. The program also includes employment training.  
[www.yourtickettowork.com](http://www.yourtickettowork.com)

### Financial & Basic Needs Support

**Supplemental Social Security Income**  
Families of children with disabilities may be able to receive a supplemental income to help offset the cost of raising a child with a disability. Eligibility is based on family income, the number of people in the family, and the severity of the disability. Some information available in Spanish.  
[http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/index.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/index.htm)
### National

#### Housing Accessibility & Home Modification

**Concrete Change**  
Supporting universal design efforts to make all homes accessible to persons with disabilities.  
[www.concretechange.org](http://www.concretechange.org)  
800-378-7455

**Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (HUD)**  
Information about the rights of persons with disabilities in regards to housing, and how to file complaints.  
202-708-1112

**Infinitec**  
Information about home modification for houses and apartments. A program of UCP in Illinois  
(website only)

**National Resource Center on Supportive Housing and Home Modification**  
Working to make supportive housing and home modification a more integral component of all communities  
[http://gero.usc.edu/nrcshhm/index.htm](http://gero.usc.edu/nrcshhm/index.htm)  
213-740-1364

**WelCome Home**  
Information about home modification and accessibility  
[http://welcomehome.iweb.bsu.edu/index.html](http://welcomehome.iweb.bsu.edu/index.html)  
765-285-1471

### Legal Issues (also see Educational Advocacy & Law)

**Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law**  
National advocates for the legal rights of adults and children with mental disabilities  
[www.bazelon.org](http://www.bazelon.org)  
202-467-5730

**Disability Law Resource Project**  
Provides technical assistance, training, and materials related to Americans with Disabilities Act  
(website only)

**FindLaw**  
Great source for obtaining actual laws related to disability and other concerns.  
(website only)

**National Guardianship Association**  
Information, referral and advocacy for excellence in guardianship  
[www.guardianship.org](http://www.guardianship.org)  
877-326-5992

### Medical Equipment & Adaptive Technology

**ABLEDATA**  
A federally funded project which provides information about assistive technology and rehabilitation equipment. Contains information on over 30,000 products.  
[www.abledata.com](http://www.abledata.com)  
800-227-0216

**Assistivetech.net**  
Clearing house of information regarding assistive technology  
[www.assistivetech.net](http://www.assistivetech.net)  
404-894-4960

**disABILITY Information and Resource**  
Really useful information on disability issues, with a large focus on assistive technology and medical links. Interesting collection of advocacy links, too.  
[www.makoa.org](http://www.makoa.org)  
(website only)

**CogLink**  
Helps individuals with cognitive disabilities set up and use e-mail accounts  
800-716-9695

### Religion

**Council for Jews with Special Needs**  
Helping persons with special needs participate fully in Jewish religious, social, and cultural life.  
[www.cjwn.org](http://www.cjwn.org)  
480-629-5343

**The Episcopal Disability Network**  
Information about the status of addressing disability issues in the church, and support for local congregations wishing to improve accessibility  
888-738-3636
# National

**National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities**
Focus on full inclusion for all persons with disabilities in the Church and in society
www.ncpd.org

**Parish Ministry Consultants**
A program of Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services that helps persons with disabilities locate accessible area congregations, and participate more fully in church life.

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## Social & Leisure

**Ability OnLine Supports**
A free internet community where children and youth with disabilities or illness and their parents can meet others like them, make friends from all over the world, share their hopes and fears, find role-models and mentors, and feel like they belong
www.abilityonline.org

**Challenge Aspen**
Year-round recreational and cultural programs for people with cognitive and physical disabilities, and their families
www.challengaspen.com

**Fishing Has no Boundaries**
Year-round recreational and cultural programs for people with cognitive and physical disabilities, and their families
www.fishnbcinc.org

**Infinitec**
Extensive information about recreational accommodations for persons with disabilities. Contains sections on gardening, travel, shopping, sports, outdoor activities, transportation, & entertainment.
www.infinitec.org/Play/index.html

**National Center on Physical Activity and Disability**
Information about the exercise needs for individuals with disabilities, and exercise opportunities.
www.ncpad.org

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## Accessible Travel

**Accessible Travel and Hospitality Society**
Information regarding accessible travel needs as well as links to travel services
http://suth.org/index.php

**Amtrack: Accessibility Services**
Information about accessibility services from Amtrack and requesting special accommodations
http://www.amtrak.com/servlet/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=am%2FLayout&cid=124120579564

**Greyhound Bus Customers with Disabilities Travel Assistance**
Information about accessibility services from Greyhound and requesting special accommodations

**DOT Disability Hotline**
Information about how to plan air travel, the rights of individuals with disabilities under the Air Carrier Access Act, and real-time assistance in resolving issues concerning service animals, stowage of personal equipment, and other accommodations.
http://airconsumer.ost.dot.gov/hotline.htm

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## Treatment Services (Behavioral and Medical)

**American Hippotherapy Association**
Information about how horses are used to improve the results of physical, occupational, and speech therapy
www.americanhippotherapyassociation.org

**American Music Therapy Association**
Information and referral about music therapy
www.musictherapy.org

**The Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies**
A nonprofit research organization. Information about issues related to applied behavior analysis (ABA) techniques
www.behavior.org

**Canine Companions for Independence**
Provides service dogs for persons with limited mobility, hearing impairment, cognitive deficit, or emotional challenges
www.caninecompanion.org
## National

### Pet Partners (formerly Delta Society)
A wealth of information about therapeutic human-animal interactions  
[www.deltasociety.org](http://www.deltasociety.org)

### National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped
Provides free, comprehensive dental care for persons with disabilities. May provide in-home service to homebound individuals. Links to providers by state.  
[www.nfdh.org](http://www.nfdh.org)

## Other Need Support - General, not specifically disability related

### All Assistance: Generic General

#### National Hispanic Prenatal Health Line
Bilingual helpline staff answer questions about prenatal care and provide referrals to culturally competent health providers by zip code. Also provides bilingual fact sheets on numerous topics.  
[www.hispanichealth.org](http://www.hispanichealth.org)

#### NeedyMeds.com
Information clearing house for patient assistance programs and other programs that provide medications to low income patients who cannot afford to pay for them.  
[www.needymeds.org](http://www.needymeds.org)

#### Su Familia: National Hispanic Family Health Hotline
Bilingual helpline staff answer questions about health topics and provide referrals to local health providers by zip code. Also provides bilingual fact sheets on various conditions  
[www.hispanichealth.org](http://www.hispanichealth.org)

### Crisis & Disaster Preparedness

#### Administration for Children and Families: Coping with Disaster
Suggestions for how to help children with disabilities cope with disaster, tragedy and traumatic stress  
[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/acf_services.html#ddamr](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/acf_services.html#ddamr)

#### American Red Cross
Information about disaster preparedness for persons with disabilities  

#### FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Administration)
Information about disaster preparedness for persons with disabilities  